

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1393
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2035

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR LEONARD'S TALKS WITH SIILASVUO

1. AMBASSADOR LEONARD AND DEPTOFF HOWELL MET WITH GENERAL
SIILASVUO AT DINNER HOSTED BY CONSUL GENERAL JULY 25 AND IN
SIILASVUO'S RESIDENCE MORNING JULY 26. AMBASSADOR LEWIS
ALSO PRESENT AT DINNER. MAIN TOPICS COVERED FOLLOW:

2. LAF MOVE SOUTH. SIILASVUO SAID HE HAD CONSISTENTLY
FAVORED GOL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH.
HE WELCOMED REPORTED GOL DECISION TO DISPATCH LAF UNITS
TO THE AREA. SIILASVUO THOUGHT THEY SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE
FROM UNIFIL CONTINGENTS AND INITIALLY WOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED
TO ENTER CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES. AT JULY 26 MEETING, SIILASVUO
SAID AIME AND CUQ HAD DISCUSSED LAF MOVE WITH GENERAL KHOURY
WHO SAID GOL WAS THINKING OF SENDING A BATTALION SOUTH IN
THE NEAR FUTURE.

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3. LEONARD SAID IN HIS TALKS WITH PM HOSS, HE HAD URGED GOL
TO CONSIDER HAVING LAF UNITS ENGAGE IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS.
HOSS SEEMED STRUCK BY WHAT WAS TO HIM A NOVEL IDEA.
(LEONARD COMMENTED FAVORABLY TO SIILASVUO ON CIVIC ACTION
PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY NORWEGIAN AND OTHER UNIFIL CONTINGENTS.)

4. LEONARD TOLD SIILASVUO IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH DEFMIN

WEIZMAN AND DMI GAZIT, BOTH HAD BEEN COMPLIMENTARY CONCERNING UNIFIL'S PERFORMANCE. IN HIS VISITS TO THE INDIVIDUAL CONTINGENTS, AMBASSADOR LEONARD SAID HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, MOTIVATION AND DISCIPLINE OF UNIFIL PERSONNEL.

5. DURING A DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, AMBASSADOR LEWIS WONDERED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HADDAD AND/OR SHIDIAK WERE TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE AREA. MIGHT THIS NOT LEAD TO EVEN GREATER ANARCHY? SIILASVUO ACKNOWLEDGED HADDAD AND SHIDIAK EXERCISED CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, IF ONE OR BOTH WERE TO LEAVE THE AREA, HE THOUGHT THE INDIVIDUAL MILITIAS WOULD BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY ISRAEL'S ADVICE AND ACTIONS.

6. SIILASVUO SAID THAT IN HIS JULY 26 MEETING WITH COS EITAN, HE WOULD PRESS ISRAEL TO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH MILITIAS TO PERMIT UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN THE ENCLAVES.

7. IN JULY 25 MEETING, LEONARD THREW OUT PERSONAL SUGGESTION THAT AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OF SOUTH LEBANON AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOL MIGHT BE USEFUL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURE WHICH COULD HELP REASSURE GOI THAT PALESTINIAN BUILD-UP NOT TAKING PLACE IN UNIFIL'S AREA OF OPERATIONS. SIILASVUO REACTED POSITIVELY.

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8. COMMENT: SIILASVUO MADE IT CLEAR HE FAVORED EARLY DISPATCH OF LAF UNITS TO SOUTH LEBANON. HE ALSO COMMENTED TO CONGEN NEWLIN THAT HE HAD FOUND BOTH MEETINGS TO BE EXTREMELY USEFUL AND WOULD ASSIST HIM IN HIS OWN MEETING WITH EITAN.

9. THIS WAS DRAFTED AFTER DEPARTURE OF LEONARD AND HOWELL WHO MAY WISH ADD THEIR OWN COMMENTS.
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